

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W
-----049322 091827Z /44

R 091100Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3163
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 105
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USIONSSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASXXX USCINCSO UARRY HEIGHTS CANAL ZONE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6595

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS PBOR PGOV BR GT
SUBJECT: VISIT OF GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT MARIO SANDOVAL

REF: GUATEMALA 4594

1. SUMMARY. GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT MARIO SANDOVAL ALARCON
SPENT AUGUST 4-5 IN RIO AND BRASILIA IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT
TO PERSUADE BRAZIL TO END ITS NEUTRALITY ON THE BELIZE ISSUE.
TOP BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS LISTENED POLITIELY TO SANDOVAL'S
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STRIDENT APPEAL, PROMISING ONLY TO "CAREFULLY STUDY" THE MATTER.
MEANWHILE, BRITISH CONTINUE PRESSING BRAZIL TO REMAIN NEUTRAL.
RAKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD US BRAZIL WOULD CONTINUE TO
ABSTAIN ON ISSUE, AT LEAST THROUGH 32ND UNGA. END SUMMARY:

2. GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT MARIO SANDOVAL ALARCON, ACCOMPANIED
BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER OBIOLS, ENDED TWO DAY VISIT TO BRAZIL

AUGUST 5 SEEKING TO ENLIST BRAZILIAN SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA IN THE DISPUTE OVER BELIZE. HIGHLIGHT OF SANDOVAL'S SCHEDULE WAS A 10-MINUTE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ERNESTO GEISEL DURING WHICH SANDOVAL PRESENTED GEISEL WITH THE "ORDER OF THE QUETZAL," GUATEMALA'S HIGHEST DECORATION, IN RECOGNITION OF BRAZILIAN HELP TO GUATEMALA IN WAKE OF FEBRUARY 1976 EARTHQUAKE. SANDOVAL AND OBIDIAES ALSO HAD SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA.

3. DURING MEETING WITH GEISEL AND IN A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE SANDOVAL REPORTEDLY MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- GUATEMALA, IN BELIZE, IS BEING MENACED BY INFILTRATION BY GUERRILLA FORCES WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY FIDEL CASTRO AND GREAT BRITAIN.

- GUATEMALA WILL FIGHT TO "THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD OF THE LAST GUATEMALAN" IF ITS JUST RIGHTS IN BELIZE ARE NOT RESPECTED.

- IF NECESSARY, GUATEMALA WILL INVOKE THE INTERAMERICAN TREATY FOR RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE.

- PRESENT SITUATION IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SINCE TWO ARMIES, FACE TO FACE, COULD START A FIGHT AT ANY MOMENT.

4. GUATEMALAN ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT: (A) GEISEL AND SILVEIRA PROMISED A VERY CAREFUL STUDY OF GUATEMALA'S POSITION ON BELIZE AND FAVOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM; (A) THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET MADE ITS POLICY CLEAR ON GUATEMALA-BELIZE ISSUE. SANDOVAL ADDED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND GUATEMALA WERE NOT GOOD BECAUSE US BELIEVES IT CAN INTERVENE IN INTERNAL GUATEMALAN AFFAIRS UNDER PRETEXT OF DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS. US HAS PROHIBITED GUATEMALAN PURCHASE OF PISTOLS AND TEAR GAS, NECESSARY FOR THE POLICE, UNDER SAME PRETEXT. (C) GUATEMALA WAS FORCED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH PANAMA BECAUSE PANAMA SOLD OUT ON ITS PROMISE OF SOLIDARITY WITH GUATEMALA IN FAVOR OF THIRD WORLD SUPPORT FOR PANAMA'S POSITION ON THE CANAL.

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5. ONLY SILVEIRA COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON SANDOVAL'S REMARKS. ON BELIZE, AND THEN IN INNOCUOUS STATEMENT: "BELIZE MUST START ITS POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE IN A PEACEFUL WAY AND THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS". ACCORDING TO PRESS, GEISEL IGNORED ISSUE, LIMITING HIS REMARKS TO THANKS FOR GUATEMALAN DECORATION, NOTING THAT HUMAN SOLIDARITY AND SHARED PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGNTY, SELF-DETERMINATION AND PEACEFUL COMPANIONSHIP PROMPTED BRAZIL'S ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA IN THE EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH. PRESS ACCOUNTS REFLECTED OFFICIAL SILENCE ABOUT GUATEMALAN PLEA FOR SUPPORT.

6. COMMENT. A BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF THAT, FROM BRITISH POINT OF VIEW, GUATEMALA HAS NOT MADE ANY PROGRESS IN MOVING BRAZIL FROM ITS NEUTRAL STANCE ON BELIZE. BRITISH AMBASSADOR STATHAM HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO ITAMARATY THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE UPCOMING VISIT TO BRAZIL OF THE BRITISH

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER VERY MUCH DEPENDS ON CONTINUED BRAZILIAN
NEUTRALITY. BRITISH EMBASSY BELIEVS THAT AMBASSADOR STATHAM'S
CALLS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE.

7. ACTING CHIEF OF ITAMARATY'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DIVISION,
MINISTER MARCOS AZAMBUJA, TOLD POL COUNSELOR AUGUST 5 THAT BRAZIL
WOULD CONTINUE ITS ABSENTENTION ON ISSUE, AT LEAST THROUGH
PERIOD OF 32ND UNGA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT MARIO SANDOVAL
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, BR, GT, BH, (SANDOVAL ALARCON, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1001dd5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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